VSNL's offer to private companies for laying fibre cable

2469. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI MATI AMBIKA SOW:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VSNL have invited responses from companies laying fibre to buy band-with a dark fibre or an entire duct; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far on the subject?

THEMINISTER OFSTATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tender for the work was floated on 14th June, 2001 and the bids were invited till 23rd July, 2001. The technical evaluation of bids is currently in progress.

Debarring VSNL from bidding for fourth cellular license

2470. SHRI SANJAY NJRUPAM:
SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VSNL has been barred from bidding for Fourth Cellular License; and-

(b) if so, the reasons therefor while MTNL or BSNL has been allowed to operate Cellular Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Sir, the tenders for grant of fresh licenses for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), *inter-alia,* stipulated the following condition:

"No single company/legal person, either directly or through its associates, shall have substantial equity holding in more than one licensee company in the same service area for the same service. 'Substantial equity' herein will mean 'an equity of 10% or more'. A promoter company can not have stakes in more than one licensee company for the same service area."

The said tender condition had been built to ensure that competition is not compromised.

Further, the tender document also stipulated that "The Licensor reserves the right to operate CMTS itself or through a designated public authority, in any or all the service areas."